



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

SHEILA SIMON – LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

P-20 Joint Education Leadership Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 11th at 1:30pm

Lt. Governor's Chicago Office
James R. Thompson Center
Chicago, IL

Lt. Governor's Capitol Office
Springfield, IL

A- Roll Call

Chicago

Lt. Governor Sheila Simon
Miguel del Valle, P-20 Council Chairman
Theresa Hawley, IL Early Learning Council
Amber Kirchhoff, Governor's Office
Adam Weiner, Governor's Office
Maria Capoccia, Lt. Governor's Office

Springfield

State Superintendent Chris Koch, IL State Board of Education
Executive Director Harry Berman, IL Board of Higher Education
Executive Director Eric Zarnikow, IL Student Assistance Commission
Executive Director Janet Holt, IL Education Research Council
Al Phillips, IL Board of Higher Education
Dan Cullen, IL Board of Higher Education
Julie Smith, Governor's Office
Lynne Haeffele, Lt. Governor's Office
Crystal Saint, Lt. Governor's Office

Phone

President Geoff Obrzut, IL Community College Board

Absent

B- Approval Meeting Minutes

Lt. Governor Simon asked for a motion to approve the March meeting minutes. A motion was made by Zarnikow and seconded by Berman. Motion was passed unanimously.

C- Review of the High School Graduation, Achievement and Success Commission Report with Miguel del Valle, Chair of the P-20 Council (30 minutes)

In the spring of 2012, [Senate Bill 3259](#) was passed and signed by Governor Pat Quinn which created the Commission on High School Graduation, Achievement, and Success, which was directed to review the high school dropout rate and find solutions to increase overall attendance. Commission members included educators, school leaders, teachers, and advocates. Del Valle was asked to co-chair the Commission along with Elaine Allensworth.

The High School Graduation, Achievement, and Success Commission held eight meetings at which expert testimony was given on the compulsory attendance age, the graduation and dropout rates, alternative education programs, and the impact of graduation on success in the work force. A key point made in testimony was the need for strong early childhood education, so that students are able to read and write at or above grade level. Other points were made on the need for responsive action on truancy, monitoring transitions from middle to high school and from high school to college, and engaging students in status updates on their goals and progress. Testimony also recommended second and third chances for reenrollment for former dropout students. Allensworth recommended an “on-track” system to follow ninth grade students until graduation, which was adopted as the main recommendation of the Commission’s report. Indicators from freshman year – including whether students have enough credits to become a sophomore, whether students leave ninth grade with one F or less per semester, and whether students have long periods of absence from school – predict over 80% of the graduates by the end of four years of high school.

Del Valle believes that the practices recommended by the High School Graduation, Achievement, and Success Commission Report are best practices that should be prioritized by the Illinois State Board of Education and the State of Illinois as a whole. In Illinois today, about 16% of total students do not graduate, based on the data available to the State of Illinois. However, numbers of minorities who do not graduate are much higher – including 23% of Latino students and 26% of African American students.

Haefele noted that as the funding declined for programs like the Truants Alternative Optional Education Program, a nearly identical inverse trend of increase could be seen in the truancy rates. She pointed out that this was an important inclusion for budget discussions as it demonstrates the direct relationship between program funding and truancy.

Koch said that Illinois is one of five states piloting the In Bloom program, which is an interstate shared learning collaboration offering the infrastructure to identify students that are at-risk and personalize a learning program for those students. The In Bloom program also allows educators to connect with teachers in other states to review which programs and policies are most effective at addressing truancy and course completion. This program is currently being piloted in Bloomington-Normal and is expected to spread throughout the state. Koch also mentioned that next month, the first growth model data from

the Illinois State Board of Education will be available. This data will be able to identify by district, by school, and by student which students are not making the progress that is expected, those that are on track, and those that are exceeding requirements.

D- Status of Math Curriculum Development with Chris Koch, State Superintendent of Education (15 minutes)

Public Act [97-0704](#) charged the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) with the creation of middle school and high school mathematics curriculum models to aid school districts in implementing Common Core mathematics standards. Committee meetings began in October of 2012 and continued until March of 2013. The committees produced model curriculum units that schools and districts could choose to adopt or adapt, in lieu of creating their own mathematics curricula. The high-school level curriculum models will take an integrated approach to math topics. Districts will be able to decide whether to use the integrated course models or continue to follow a traditional course sequence.

The next steps for the development of the math curriculum will be making the curriculum models available on the ISBE website at the conclusion of the external review process. An educational webinar will also be held to introduce stakeholders to the curriculum models on April 22, 2013. A more comprehensive webinar will be held on a later date. The ISBE is also preparing communications for the math curriculum model launches.

E- Illinois Collaborative of Education Policy Researchers (ICEPR) Meeting Update with Janet Holt, Executive Director of the Illinois Education Research Council (15 minutes)

The Illinois Collaborative of Education Policy Researchers (ICEPR) recently met in Chicago to discuss research questions that data within the Illinois Longitudinal Data System (ILDS) could inform. The ICEPR discussed several initiatives for the ILDS data, such as implementing an early childhood data system, providing licensure data to educators, and creating a data system “warehouse.”

The ICEPR also discussed methods of providing the statewide data access necessary for the ILDS. For this access to occur, seven statewide agencies, as well as the Office of the Governor, will enter a joint agreement by June, 2013 to establish a governance structure and committee structure to support the ILDS. Committees will include external affairs, internal affairs, legal processes, and data access and use. The overall goal of these structures will be to provide certainty about how the data will be maintained and accessed. These structures will also help to ensure the longevity of the overall partnership.

Individuals from Illinois State University (ISU), Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE), University of Chicago (UIC), and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) also provided presentations to ICEPR on recent research.

Erika Hunt of ISU’s Center for the Study of Education Policy presented at the ICEPR meeting on behalf of ISU. ISU is currently looking at the role of school leaders in bridging early learning and K-12 systems, as well as working with several other universities to develop a better evaluation system for principal candidates.

Holt presented at the ICEPR meeting on behalf of SIUE and the Illinois Education Research Council (IERC), which is currently conducting an analysis of the class of 2003 in terms of its transition from high school to college and persistence to degree completion. IERC is also conducting prototype studies for

the ILDS to look at indicators of progress toward a college degree. IERC will sponsor a symposium to be held at the IHotel in Champaign on June 13-14. The ILDS will be discussed at this symposium.

Jenny Nagaoka, Consortium on Chicago School Research, presented at the ICDPR meeting on behalf of the University of Chicago. The university is studying major issues in Chicago public schools, including: the readiness and rigor in high schools, the transition from middle school to high school, the organization of schools, the human capital of Chicago public school teachers and principals, and the early childhood period. The University of Chicago is also working on an on-track indicator (as referenced in the High School Graduation, Achievement and Success Commission report referenced above).

Allison Witt and Katherine Ryan presented on behalf of UIUC at the ICDPR meeting. UIUC is currently focusing on qualitative interviews with each of the states to discover how researchers have been involved in the creation of their respective LDS projects, and how researchers are planning to utilize LDS data. UIUC is also studying different state research agendas associated with the LDS, which are often similar, but feature differences in the way that data will be used. Similarly, UIUC is studying the way in which LDS data can be used to facilitate improvement at each level of education.

F- NGA Common Core Survey Review with Julie Smith, Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Quinn (15 minutes)

The National Governors Association (NGA) has released a sample Common Core Survey for all states to use. The NGA is interested in seeing what barriers there may be to implementing the Common Core standards in each state. Currently, a primary concern for the State of Illinois is the technical capability of local school districts to deliver the new assessments on-line. It is likely that the responses will be compiled by the NGA and shared with the United States Department of Education to solicit support for implementing the Common Core standards and tests.

The Illinois survey is due on Friday, April 19, 2013. Smith asked Committee members to send her their comments on the survey, which was provided as a handout for this meeting.

G- Progress Update: ILDS Governance Agreements (15 minutes)

Four of the seven education and workforce agencies have now approved the final version of the Illinois Longitudinal Data System (ILDS) Governance Agreement, including the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE).

Del Valle asked if the decision not to include a common identifier for the ILDS system was final. Berman was unsure. Smith noted that a federated system would allow agencies to retain their own identifiers, but data would be matched in a common data set. Holt noted that matching is greatly improved through the use of a common identifier.

H- Review of Draft P-20 Meeting Agenda (10 minutes)

A draft of the agenda for the upcoming P-20 Council meeting was provided in the handouts for this meeting. The meeting will be held at Aurora University on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 from 10:00am to 3:30pm.

I- **Agency Updates** (15 minutes)

Illinois Early Learning Council (ELC)

President Obama recently proposed a ten-year, \$75 billion investment by the federal government to assist in funding early childhood care and educational programs. The investment aims to provide universal access to all-day programs for all four year-olds whose families are at or below the poverty level. Currently, the State of Illinois has a similar program to serve three and four year-olds with half-day programs. The federal government has indicated that the priority of the program will be to ensure that all four year-olds have access to full-day programs and that they are transitioned into full-day kindergarten courses. The federal government expects at-risk three year-old students to be served by the Head Start program, while four year-olds that are enrolled in the Head Start program will largely be transitioned into new programs based in school districts.

The ELC recognizes that this proposal could be an opportunity for growth in the State of Illinois, but also recognizes there will be significant shifts required in the early education system in Illinois to comply with federal regulations.

The funding for the four year-old programs will come from a federal tobacco tax. Funding for pre-school development programs will be provided by competitive federal grants.

Haeffele asked what percentage of four year-old students were currently served by pre-kindergarten programs in Illinois. Hawley responded about half of the low-income three and four year-old students in the State of Illinois are served through the State's Pre-School for All program. Hawley noted that the proposed resources from the federal government currently appear to be around \$250 million each year. However, the federal government has suggested that funding will be higher initially and then decreased over time to require higher investment at the state level.

Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)

The ISBE has been involved in quarterly meetings with the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) to discuss the important connections between K-12 and higher education programs. At the most recent meeting, McLean County Unit 5 Superintendent Gary Niehaus presented on what is needed from a K-12 workforce. Following Niehaus' presentation, Loyola University presented on how its programs have been redesigned and the University of Illinois presented on induction and mentoring. These meetings have been valuable in demonstrating a partnership between the ISBE and the IBHE.

The ISBE met with the Illinois Principals Association board. The Illinois Principals Association provided positive feedback on the focus that evaluations provide, but noted that the evaluations take too much time from their work within the administration. He noted that the majority of the push back from school districts on new policies was stemming from issues of funding and resources, rather than the belief that the programs were ineffective.

Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE)

There is a national movement to streamline the process of state authorization of institutions of higher education with distance education. A state authorization reciprocity agreement will be discussed next week. The agreement would be fairly neutral toward Illinois' policy on institutions without a physical presence in Illinois, but would be beneficial for institutions with a physical location in Illinois and

operating distance learning programs that enroll students from other states. The IBHE is hopeful that the agreement will move forward, as it will make it easier for Illinois schools with distance learning programs to cross state lines.

The IBHE is also following several federal funding initiatives. Around 10-12 proposals were generated by a grant provided by the Gates Foundation aimed at improving federal financial aid. While each proposal differs from the rest, most argue that federal financial aid should be leveraged to increase completion. Most argue this should be done by directing aid to schools with proven track records of high completion. These recommendations are likely to be tied into the reauthorization of the federal Higher Education Act.

Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)

The Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators will be meeting this week in Peoria for its annual conference. The ISAC will be presenting several times during the conference.

The ISAC is concerned about appropriations for the Monetary Aid Program (MAP). Last year, MAP awards were initially suspended on March 19, and were reopened for an extension until April 2. ISAC found that students whose applications were originally suspended but were offered an extension accepted their awards at a much higher rate than historical acceptance trends. This year, MAP awards are trending to be very close to the appropriated amount, and the award amounts may need to be reduced.

College Illinois contract sales resumed last October, and the current enrollment period ends on April 30, 2013. There have been very encouraging sales this cycle.

Office of the Lt. Governor

Lt. Governor Simon had the opportunity to discuss recommendations from the previous JELC meeting regarding the College Scorecard with the White House staffers while she was in Washington, D.C. The staffers were receptive to suggestions and Simon will continue to work with them to improve the scorecard.

Illinois Community College Board (ICCB)

The ICCB appropriations hearing has been moved to a different date. Community college students will be lobbying on April 30th. Next Tuesday ICCB will be honoring their Phi Beta Kappa students at a banquet. Obrzut also noted the loss of one of their staff members.

J- Other Business

No other business was discussed.

K- Next meeting will take place Thursday, May 9, 2013

L- Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.